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**Letter dated 1 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to forward a press release issued by the African Union mission in the Sudan on the consultation held by the African Union mediation team with the officials of the Government of the Sudan in Khartoum.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

**Press release**

**The African Union mediation team held consultations with the officials of the Government of the Sudan in Khartoum**

As part of the efforts aimed at achieving a political solution to the conflict in Darfur, a delegation from the African Union mediation team (African Union Commission and Chad) is undertaking consultations with the Sudanese Parties on the best way to rapidly resume the talks in Abuja as called for by the African Union highest policy organs.

In this context, the delegation led by Ambassador Sam Ibok, representative of the Chairperson to the Political Talks, comprising Ambassador Allam-Mi Ahmed, Special Adviser to the President of Chad, Boubou Niang, Political Adviser to the African Union Special Envoy for Darfur, Dawit Toga, Political Analyst at the Conflict Management Division, and Fanklyn B. Kargbo, Senior Legal Officer, concluded a three day visit to Khartoum. The delegation held a series of meetings with Government officials, namely Magzoub El Khalifa, Minister of Agriculture and the two Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, Najeeb Al Khair and El Tijani Fidail.

During the meetings, the present security situation on the ground was reviewed. The Parties also discussed various issues relating to the preparation for the next round of the Abuja Talks and their resumption at an earliest date. The African Union mediation team informed its interlocutors that at the end of the present tour of consultations with the Parties, a draft Framework Protocol on the resolution of the conflict in Darfur will be prepared in the light of the positions expressed by the Parties.

The African Union mediation team also consulted, on the same subject, the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Sudan as well as ambassadors and representatives of the African Union international partners accredited in Khartoum.

The African Union mediation team will be leaving Khartoum tonight for Nairobi and Asmara to hold similar consultations with leaders of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).